GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:369
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Production of Pulses
Jaunpuria Shri Sukhbir Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps which the Government proposes to take to increase the production of pulses and to check rising price of pulses;

(b) whether the Committee headed by the Chief Economic Advisor has advised to give subsidy to the farmers and additional allocation to the Government's procurement agencies and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to implement the recommendations of committee;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government is also considering to impose restriction on export and keep unlimited stock of pulses and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): In order to enhance the production and productivity of pulses, Government of India has been implementing National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM)-Pulses. Apart from the normal initiatives covered under NFSM-Pulses, Government has initiated various additional steps to further boost the production of pulses in the country from the year 2016-17. These initiatives include creation of seed hubs through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs); breeder seed production through ICAR institutes; distribution of seed minikits of pulses free of cost to the farmers, incentives for seed production, etc. Similarly, in order to check the prices of pulses, steps like creation of buffer stocks; enhancing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of pulses, etc have also been taken.

(b) to (e): Yes, Madam, the Committee headed by Chief Economic Adviser constituted to address the policy issues relating to mismatch between demand and supply, rising prices of pulses and straining the purchasing power of consumers, gave several recommendations which includes providing subsidy to the farmers and additional allocation to Government's various procurement agencies. These recommendations are under implementation. Government of India has built a dynamic buffer of 19.18 lakh MT as on 12.07.2017 under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF). In order to keep unlimited stock of pulses, the Government has imposed restrictions on export of pulses except Kabuli Chana and 50,000 MTs of organic pulses and lentils per annum.
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